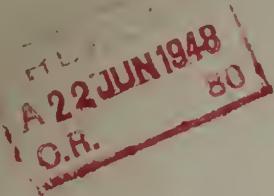


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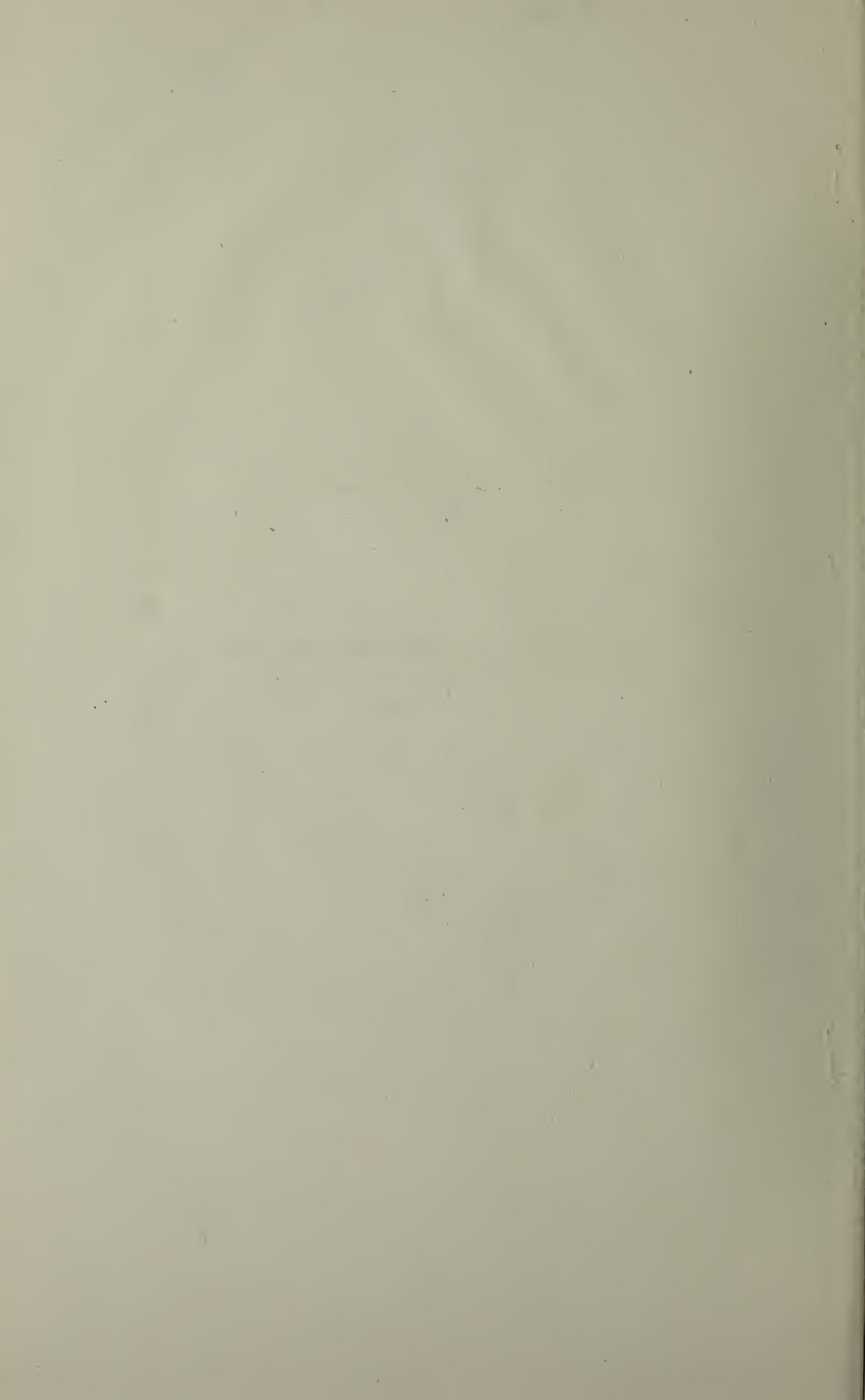


LEDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1947.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1947.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:

Miss D.R. Plascott.

Telephone - Ross 214.

County Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.

Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor & Housing
Designated Officer:

+ F.J. EAST, M.I.Mun.B., A.R.S.I.

+ Holds Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

Telephone - Ledbury 5.

Urban Council Offices,
Church Street,
Ledbury.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the Urbar District during the year 1947. The Report is furnished under Article 17 (4) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and in accordance with Circular 170/47 of the Ministry of Health. It contains no matter of report inserted on the specific instructions of the Council but deals gonerally with the health of the inhabitants and matters having bearing upon health.

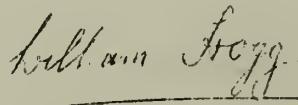
The year was characterised by the relative freedom of the inhabitants from infectious disease, by a satisfactory birth rate and a small natural increase of population.

I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support and the courtesy which the Council has given me throughout the year in the discharge of my duties.

It will be recognised that the Annual Report could not be published without the assistance of my colleagues and I have to acknowledge such assistance, most willingly given, from Mr. H. Orme, Clerk to the Council, Mr. F.J. East, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer and Mr. K.G. Mills, Rating Officer.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Area Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:-

The Urban District of Ledbury is a small country town in the south-east of the County of Hereford, lying on the western side of the Malvern Hills. It forms a centre for the surrounding fertile agricultural district, and is an attraction for summer visitors. The town has a very long history and fortunately many old buildings have been preserved.

The town lies on the main line of the railway connecting Hereford and Birmingham and is a junction for the Newent and Gloucester line. The River Leadon flows by the town but is here a small shallow stream unsuitable for navigation and of no value for fishing. The prosperity of the town is linked with that of the surrounding Rural District.

Area (in acres)	499
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1947)	995
Rateable Value	£19,122
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£73.8.5d.
Registrar General's Estimated Resident Population ...	3,408

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:-

Live Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	21.1
Still Birth rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still) ...	27.0
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude). ...	15.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births
Heading No. 29 ... Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Heading No. 30 ... Other Puerperal Causes	1	13.5

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:-

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	69.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	74.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ...	Nil

Population:-

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population is 3,408, which compares with 3,404 for the year 1946 and 3,284 at the 1931 census. It will be seen that there has been little variation in the population for some time. With the Registrar General's figure as a basis, the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.42, and the gross density of persons per acre is 6.83. The estimated average number of inhabited houses per acre is 1.99. The natural increase of population, that is, the excess of births over deaths for the whole year is 19.

Births:-

The total number of live births occurring in the resident population was 72, there being 36 boys and 36 girls born during the year. The birth rate per thousand of the estimated resident population is therefore 21.1, which compares with a figure of 23.8 per thousand in 1946, and the live birth rate of England and Wales for 1947 which is 20.5 per 1,000 population.

The number of illegitimate live births was 5. (1 boy and 4 girls) which is 7% of the total live births.

4.

Still Births:-

During the year, there were 2 still births registered. The still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) is 27.0 or expressed in another way the ratio of still births was 0.6 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

Deaths:-

After deducting the number of deaths of non-residents who died within the area and adding the number of deaths of residents which occurred outside of the area, the total number of deaths of inhabitants which took place during the year is 53. This total is formed of 27 male deaths and 26 female deaths.

The crude death rate was 15.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population, which compares with the death rate of England and Wales of 12.0 per 1,000 total population for 1947. It is not at present possible to give a corrected death rate and the difference between these rates is due to the age distribution of the resident population. In small towns, the younger section of the population tends to migrate to other areas.

The commonest cause of death was disease of the heart; this was attributed as the cause of death of 19 persons (10 males and 9 females), whilst disease of the arteries was given as the cause of death of 10 persons (2 males and 8 females).

Cancer:-

The deaths from all forms of cancer amounted to 6 (5 males and 1 female) which gives a cancer death rate of 1.76 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

Infant Mortality:-

There were five deaths of infants under one year of age (3 males and 2 females) all were legitimate infants, and the death rate was 69.4 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths Due to Diarrhoea Under Two Years of Age:-

There were no deaths of children under two years of age attributed to diarrhoea.

Deaths Due to Notifiable Infectious Disease:-

Three deaths (2 males and 1 female) were attributed to pneumonia which was the only notifiable infectious disease given as the cause of death.

Violent Death:-

One male death was due to suicide.

A table of causes of death is given below.

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING YEAR 1947

No:	Cause	Male	Female	Persons.
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	1	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	-	1
16.	Cancer of all other Sites	4	1	5
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	2	8	10
19.	Heart Disease	10	9	19
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	2	4
21.	Bronchitis	2	-	2
22.	Pneumonia	2	1	3
30.	Other Maternal Causes	-	1	1
31.	Premature Birth	1	-	1
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury Etc.	2	2	4
33.	Suicide	1	-	1
36.	Other Causes	-	1	1
Total all causes		27	26	53

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Offices, Hereford, a unit of the Public Health Laboratory Service, under the direction of Dr. R. Ewart Jones, continued to provide clinical laboratory facilities for the area. There can be no doubt that this service is of the greatest value to the inhabitants of the district and to the Public Health Department. The control of bacterial diseases continues to increase in complexity each year as a result of progress in research,

The following table shows the number and type of examinations carried out by the laboratory on behalf of the Public Health Department:-

Specimens examined.

Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.
Sputum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Urine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water - Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Water - Chemical	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

It must be remembered that investigations are also carried out at the request of medical practitioner's in the area. These investigations are not included in the above table.

Hospital Facilities:-General:

The Ledbury Cottage Hospital, situated in the town, is a voluntary hospital of 12 beds, and is provided with a surgical theatre and an X-ray apparatus. It provides useful accommodation for both surgical and medical cases. Patients requiring treatment beyond the facilities of this hospital are treated at the hospitals in Malvern, Hereford and Gloucester.

In addition, there are two wards for the treatment of chronic sickness in Belle Orchard House, an institution provided by the Herefordshire County Council. Shortage of staff, at the present time, prevents the maximum use being made of these two wards.

Infectious Disease:-

The Council has accommodation for the treatment of infectious disease (including smallpox) at the isolation hospitals of the Hereford Rural District Council.

Ambulance Facilities:-

A motor ambulance is maintained at the Court House Depot, by the Home Ambulance Service Joint Committee of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society. The officer in charge is Mr. W. Allen, Homend. Telephone, Ledbury 163.

Patients suffering from infectious disease are conveyed by the ambulance of the Hereford Rural District Council stationed at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital. Open cases of tuberculosis are transported by ambulance vehicles provided by the Herefordshire County Council.

Clinics:-Infant Welfare:

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held every alternate Tuesday afternoon at the Church Room in Market Street. This is provided by a voluntary committee with assistance from the Herefordshire County Council.

School Clinic:

A County Council School Clinic is held every Tuesday and Friday morning at 10 a.m., at the Court House premises for the treatment of

minor ailments in school children.

Ante-Natal Clinic:

A pre-natal Clinic is held at the Court House premises on alternate Tuesday afternoons in conjunction with the County Council Hospital, Hereford.

Orthopaedic Clinic:

The Herefordshire County Council provides an Orthopaedic Clinic, held every alternate month at the Court House premises.

Public Mortuary:-

No public mortuary and post-mortem room is as yet provided but the Council has this provision in mind. Such accommodation would suffice for the Urban and the surrounding Rural District and it is possible that the adaptation of an existing building may be the best practical solution at the present time.

Water:-

The town is supplied chiefly by means of the Council's piped supply, although there are still over 100 private shallow wells in use as domestic supplies. In 1938/39 a survey of these wells was completed and showed that in many instances the water was not fit for potable purposes. The continued use of shallow wells of doubtful quality is not likely to promote the health of the inhabitants and should be remedied at an early date. It is appreciated that present general shortages render mass conversion impractical.

The Council's mains are divided into two systems, the high pressure system supplying the higher part of the town and the low pressure system which supplies the remainder, but there are facilities for connecting the high pressure to the low pressure system.

The water normally supplying the low pressure mains is derived from the Conygree Reservoir (100,000 gallons capacity), this being fed from springs which originate in what appears to be Wenlock Limestone in Conygree Wood. These springs are land springs with a yield subject to variations related to the local rainfall. The Brickyard Well is one of the most important of these. The water is chlorinated in the reservoir and supplies water by gravitation. There is no pumping plant provided and this supply requires augmentation from the high pressure supply during the summer months of low rainfall.

The high pressure system depends upon the reservoir (75,000 gallons) situated at Cross Hands and which is fed by pumping water from Massington Wells situated in a depression in Bastnor Parish. An automatic chlorinator is driven from the crankshaft of the pumps. During dry weather lowering of the rest level in the well is observed.

As the existing sources of supply had been for some time inadequate for the needs of the District, the Council in 1942 was able to arrange with the Malvern Urban District Council for a supply from the Bromsberrow pumping station of that authority. This supply is brought from Hollybush by a 3" main through the Parish of Bastnor to the H.P. reservoir at Massington. The Bromsberrow supply is derived from boreholes in the New Red Sandstone.

During the year, the supply was found to be inadequate in quantity at the Longacre Housing Site, in Bridge Street, Oatleys Road and at the Grammar School. The shortage of water necessitated the closure of the Grammar School for a short time.

The deficiency of the supply arose through inadequate water mains and was aggravated by the refilling of the swimming bath. In the previous year, Mr. F.J. East, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, prepared a scheme to overcome these difficulties, this scheme contained the following constructions:-

" (1) A length of main to be laid in Knapp Lane, connecting the Hollybush main with the existing Knapp Lane main, to enable the swimming bath to be filled from the Hollybush supply.

(2) The construction of a bypass at the junction of Bank Crescent and Homend Crescent with a valve near the Grammar School entrance to enable Bank Crescent to be supplied from the Hollybush main.

(3) A main to be laid across the railway in Bridge Street to connect the mains at each end of the bridge.

(4) A new main to be laid over the Woodleigh Road railway bridge."

This work was commenced during the year but had not been completed before the end of the year.

During the year, it was found that the low pressure system

water obtained from the Brickyard Well showed evidence of animal contamination. This appeared to arise from cattle standing over the well cover. To obviate this a fence was erected around the well. In addition, pipes were laid from the Coneygree Springs to the collecting chamber and the outlet was closed. These measures produced an improvement in the quality of the water.

Chlorination of the Council's supplies has been continuous since 1942, and has resulted in the water being rendered sterile as shown on bacteriological examination. Samples are examined from time to time of the chlorinated water but owing to engineering circumstances it is not possible to sample water before chlorination except at the Massington Wells. However, previous to the installation of chlorination, tests showed that the untreated water did give a small bacterial count. Chlorination when properly carried out has no harmful effect upon health and is a valuable protection against water borne disease, the discontinuance of this safeguard is not to be recommended.

Six samples of water were sent for bacteriological examination and two samples were sent for chemical examination.

The water supplied to the town appears to have no appreciable solvent action upon lead or other metals. It is to be noted that all the water supplied to the town is obtained from underground sources and contains a fair amount of hardness.

Within the town, 671 dwellings are supplied from the mains by means of separate services, whilst 101 dwellings are supplied by stand pipes.

The average daily consumption of water per day was 69,000 gallons for all purposes, or 20.1 gallons per head of the estimated resident population.

In addition to the supply given with the Urban area, a small number of dwellings and business premises in the adjacent Rural area are connected to the Council's mains.

Drainage and Sewerage:-

The town has a system of public sewers which receives the drainage of almost the whole of the town. The system in parts must be quite as old as the town and the exact course and condition of the sewers are probably not known, nevertheless the system functions satisfactorily.

The sewers take both storm water and sewage and connect partly to a series of crude settlement tanks and partly to the sewage disposal works. These works are very old and are completely inadequate for the proper treatment of the present day quantity of sewage. As a result, the effluent passing from the works into the River Leadon causes the river to become badly deoxygenated.

New sewage disposal works provided with storm water tanks, settlement tanks, rotary filters and humus tanks are very necessary if the condition of the River Leadon is to be improved.

No new public or private sewers were constructed during the year. There were also no new sewage disposal works constructed or alterations made to the existing disposal works.

During the year, 34 new drains were constructed, of these, 33 were in connection with dwelling houses. Twenty drain tests were made. No constructions or repairs were found to be necessary for existing drains.

Public Conveniences:-

Public conveniences are provided in the centre of the town by the Council. These are well sited and maintained in a good state with some difficulty. Damage and mutilation of the premises is a problem of some significance. Thirty inspections of these premises were made during the year.

Rivers and Streams:-

The River Leadon, a tributary of the River Severn, forms part of the western boundary of the Urban District. At Ledbury, the Leadon is a small stream which tends to produce flooding of its banks in the winter months. Such floods frequently involve the land used for irrigation at the existing sewage disposal works.

The condition of the river below the town is very unsatisfactory. It is frequently discoloured, the bed is covered with a black deposit, fungal growths are common and the stream appears to be devoid of life. In other words, the river is heavily polluted and will remain so until proper sewage disposal works are constructed to deal adequately with the effluents it receives in this neighbourhood.

Evidence of pollution can be seen for a few miles below the town, and in the drier months of the year when the flow is small the appearance of the stream is objectionable.

Recent cleaning of the course of the River Leadon has somewhat improved the flow, but this has made no difference in the condition of the water.

Whilst the settlement tanks of the Urban District Council's sewage disposal works were cleaned out during the year, such action had no beneficial result upon the state of the River.

Closet Accommodation:-

About half of the dwellings in the town are provided with efficient water closets, the remaining dwellings being provided with slop closets. These latter are not entirely adequate and conversion is one of the tasks of the future. One pail closet was converted to a water closet, during the year. There do not appear to be any privies or pail closets in use within the area. The number of new water closets provided during the year was 62.

Public Cleansing:-

There is a weekly system of collection for domestic refuse throughout the District. As the Council failed to obtain delivery of the new refuse collection vehicle, the use of the open lorry with all its disadvantages had to continue throughout the year. The Council does not undertake the collection of trade refuse. The disposal of the collected domestic refuse is by means of tipping on flat ground and as there is always a lack of earth for covering purposes, it is not possible to introduce a fully controlled system of disposal. The existing tip appears to be the best practical means of disposal.

The Council does not undertake the cleansing of privies and cesspools. Street cleansing is continuous, one man being permanently engaged in this work with additional help when required. All roads are cleansed including trunk roads and the cleansing is quite adequate.

Swimming Baths:-

The small open air swimming bath in Hereford Road, owned by the Council, was open to the public during the summer months on payment. The bath water is taken from the town mains and the bath is emptied and refilled once weekly. No purification plant is provided but hand treatment of the water with Chlorine is carried out to maintain the water in a clean state. Whilst the bath is not ideal and falls far short of modern standards, it does enable instruction in swimming to be given and tends to keep children away from the River Leadon. One sample of swimming bath water was submitted during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

I am indebted to Mr. F.J. East, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for the following tabular statement furnished under Article 27(18) of the

Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulation, 1935:-

Inspections:-

Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ashbins & Ash-pits	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds & Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Outworkers Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Rats & Mice Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shops (Shops Act, 1934)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Swimming Baths & Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Housing (Consolidated Regulations 1925)	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
<hr/>							
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>318</u>

Notices Issued:-

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Statutory re Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Statutory under other Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
<hr/>							
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>26</u>

Summary of Defects Remedied:-

Draughts & Gullies Cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Drains Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Closets Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pail Closets Converted to Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New Inspection Chambers Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New Sinks Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water Supplies Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sanitary Fittings Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds & Dairies Improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Floors Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective Eaves Gutters Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rain Water Pipes Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Brickwork Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective Coppers Remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous Defects Remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

51Shops and Offices:-

A statutory notice, under the Shops Act, 1934, was served upon the occupier of one shop to provide adequate sanitary accommodation. Under the Public Health Act, 1936, action was taken to provide the Sanitary Inspector with an office with proper sanitary accommodation.

Camping Sites:-

There were no sites used for camping purposes during the year and no licences for camping sites were granted by the Local Authority.

Eradication of Bed Bugs:-

No infestations of dwellings with bed bugs came to the notice of the Department during the year. No system of disinfection of the belongings of tenants before removal to Council houses is in operation. No disinfections were carried out by the Council's staff.

Factories Act, 1937:-

The number of factories with mechanical power registered with the Local Authority at the end of the year was 30, whilst the number without mechanical power was 13.

In the course of the year, the number of inspections made was 67, and 10 contraventions were found. Two of the contraventions related to absence of proper sanitary accommodation, whilst a further three were in respect of defective closet accommodation, and two factories were found to be without a water supply. One closet defect was remedied at the end of the year.

At the present time, there appear to be no outworkers employed within the area.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in Respect of the Year 1947
for the URBAN DISTRICT of LIDBURY in the County of HEREFORDSHIRE.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises.	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	18	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	29	37	2	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	12	Nil	Nil
Totals	44	67	2	Nil

2. - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Found	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
		Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	8	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Total ...	10	1	-	1	-

SECTION D. - HOUSING:-

During the year, fairly satisfactory progress was made by the Council with the Longacre housing scheme. At the beginning of the year, 27 dwellings were in course of erection and 20 of these were completed and occupied before the end of the year, leaving a further 7 incomplete.

The total number of occupied Council Houses on 31st December, 1947, was 132, but this number does not include 13 dwellings originally erected by the Council and occupied by tenant purchasers.

In addition to dwellings completed by the Council, private persons completed the erection of 6 dwelling houses whilst one other dwelling erected by a private person was under construction but incomplete at the end of the year.

The total number of occupied dwellings with the Urban District on 31st December, 1947, was 995, this total being made up thus:-

Separate Dwelling Houses and Flats	...	...	...	968
Almhouses	...	...	...	24
Tenements	...	...	...	3
<hr/>				
			995	<hr/>

From these figures, it will be seen the Council Houses form 13% of the total number of dwellings within the area.

The most urgent housing need of the town is, however, the erection of still more dwellings. This is necessary if the elimination of overcrowding is to be achieved, and there are still a few dwellings badly overcrowded, and in addition there are a number of dwellings rendered unfit for human habitation by reason of multiple sanitary defects. The first essential step to secure an improvement in the housing conditions would therefore appear to be the erection of further dwellings by the Council.

Owing to changed economic circumstances, with very few exceptions, it would appear that the provision of dwellings to let by private individuals is no longer a practical possibility, and such provision will rest upon the Local Authority.

The following statement summarises the action taken by the Department during the year to secure the preservation and improvement of the housing conditions:-

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:-

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	21
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				...		36
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...		21
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				...		26
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...			1
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...		20

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	12
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Action Under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

1. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	2
(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-				
(i) By owners	...	...	...	2
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil

2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	5
(b) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-				
(i) By owners	...	...	...	5
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	...			Nil

3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	Nil

4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. - Overcrowding:-

1. (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	28
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...		40
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...		180
2. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	9

3. (a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year: 	19
(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	105
4.	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 	1

SECTION II. - THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:-Milk Supply:-

During the year the revision of the register of dairymen under Article 6, of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, was carried out. At the end of the year there was one wholesale purveyor and four retail purveyors of milk registered with the Local Authority.

The sale and distribution of milk within the area during the year was satisfactory. No cases of disease occurred in which infected milk was suspected as being the source of infection. Three inspections of registered premises were made.

There are no pasteurisation plants in the area and no licences for the sale of pasteurised milk were issued by the Local Authority during the year.

No samples of milk were submitted by the Department for tests for cleanliness or pathological bacteria.

The control of milk supplies is, in general, not completely satisfactory as there are a number of authorities, both local and central, and various other bodies interested in the production of milk. Unification of the control and supervision of milk supplies seems to be needed.

The Urban District Council as a sanitary authority is interested in the production of milk which can be consumed by the inhabitants without risk of injury to health. As milk forms a very suitable medium for encouraging the growth of bacteria the importance of preventing contamination and the proper storage and handling of milk will be obvious. Moreover, it is recognised that a dangerously contaminated milk may not show any marked physical difference from a perfectly clean and safe milk. It will also be seen that such contaminated milk may contaminate other foods if mixed.

Ice Cream:-

This food is a milk product and the same care is required to be used for its preparation and storage as is necessary in the production of milk.

There are no premises, in the area, registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of ice cream, but three premises are registered for storage and sale. During the year, six inspections of registered premises were made and no action was necessary with regard to these premises.

Water Cress:-

A small sale of this foodstuff takes place during the season, but no action was necessary by the Department. This plant grows in a number of places adjacent to the town and is no doubt gathered and consumed, but no ill effects appear to have been experienced. The cress supplied by green grocers in the town is purchased from wholesalers or recognised local sources.

Shell fish:-

The sale of shell fish in the town is insignificant at the present time and no action was necessary.

Meat:-

All fresh meat is obtained from the City Abattoir at Hereford, where inspection is carried out, with the result that unsound meat is not conveyed into the town. There are no slaughterhouses in use in the town.

Unsound Food:-

The following list shows the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ stone.
Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 tons.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	34 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 lbs.
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	...	...	43.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	47 tins.
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	121 tins.
Meat and Meat Products	...	...	...	...	...	...	38 tins.
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	26 tins.
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	202 tins.
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 tins.
Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	...	93 jars.

Food Poisoning and Suspected Food Poisoning:-

No notifications of illness arising from or suspected as arising from the consumption of any food stuff were received.

SECTION F. - THE POSITION OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:-

The population showed remarkable freedom from notifiable infectious disease. Indeed, only two diseases occurred, measles and whooping cough, and the incidence of both was very small.

Fifteen notifications of measles were received, five during the first quarter and ten cases during the second quarter. At the beginning of June, the infection disappeared from the town and did not reappear.

During the third quarter, no notifications of any disease were received and towards the end of the fourth quarter, three cases of whooping cough were notified.

The town was free from scarlet fever, diphtheria and infantile paralysis, although the incidence of this latter disease throughout the country as a whole showed an extraordinary rise.

With one exception, all notifications related to disease in children under ten years of age, and the cases were mild. All the patients were treated at home and there were no deaths, certified as due to measles or whooping cough.

The following table shows the incidence of measles and whooping cough according to age:-

Disease.	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Total.
Measles.	-	1	2	3	1	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	15
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Totals.	-	2	2	4	2	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	18

The table given below shows the incidence of measles and whooping cough according to sex in each quarter:-

Disease.	1st. Quarter.		2nd. Quarter.		3rd. Quarter.		4th. Quarter.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Measles	3	2	5	5	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2

This freedom from infectious disease could be more apparent than real, if the medical practitioners within the area failed to notify when disease occurred. I am satisfied that this is not so, and that the practitioners within the area invariably notify with promptitude and accuracy. The notifications therefore represent an accurate picture of the incidence of disease in the population. Three deaths were attributed to pneumonia but no notifications were received of the occurrence of this disease within the area.

Scabies:-

No cases of scabies were reported at any time during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Although the County Council became the responsible Authority for the immunisation of children under five years of age, this was purely an administrative change, the scheme continued to function without actual change. The medical practitioners of the area continued to give the scheme their full support.

The following table shows the number of children who received a complete course of prophylactic injections in the year:-

Number of Children who had completed full course of Immunisation during year 1947.

Age at 31.12.47 i.e. Born in Year..	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 - 9 1938-42	10 - 14 1933-37	Total under 15
Number Immunised.	-	35	9	1	1	-	-	46

When this table is merged with the work of the following years the following is obtained:-

Number of Children who have completed full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31 December 1947.

Age at 31.12.47 i.e. Born in Year..	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 - 9 1938-42	10 - 14 1933-37	Total under 15
Number Immunised.	-	38	32	27	46	202	232	577
Children under 5							Children 5-14	
Estimated mid-year child population 1947	279					507		786

It is estimated that 51.3% of the child population aged 0 - 4 years, and 85.6% of the child population aged 5 - 14 years had received complete course of prophylactic at the end of the year.

Whilst these results are fairly good, the position cannot be regarded as satisfactory until every child receives a complete course of injections at about the age of one year and reinforcement injections at intervals of about five years.

The prophylactic used is almost always alum precipitated toxoid. Occasionally toxoid antitoxin floccules are used for primary injections in older persons and for reinforcement treatment.

No routine Schick Testing is carried out at the present time.

It is to be noted that the area was completely free from diphtheria throughout the year. Formerly this disease has given rise to concern and it was the cause of death in one or two instances.

Tuberculosis:-

At the end of 1946 there were 32 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 29 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary. During 1947, 3 cases were added to the register, all pulmonary, of these 2 were with respect to new cases. Eight cases were removed from the register, 6 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary, and on the 31st December 1947, 27 cases remained on the register, 26 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary. One death was attributed to pulmonary tuberculosis.

Age periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All ages	1	1	~	~	-	1	-	-

